

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 SWF-02 DRC-01

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R 080530Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3298

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, BG

SUBJECT: BDG ASSISTANCE REQUEST

1. DURING MEETING ON DEBT MENTIONED SEPTTEL ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR AND SCHWARZWALDER, SECRETARY, PLANNING COMMISSION ALSO MADE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIONS RE POSSIBILITY RE-DIRECTION SCOPE USG ASSISTANCE. WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY NEW INFORMATION, SECRETARY EMPHASIZED DESPERATE ECONOMIC SITUATION WHICH BDG FACES. HE ATTRIBUTES THIS MAINLY TO INCREASED WORLD PRICES FOODGRAINS AND POL PRODUCTS.

2. IN THE FACE OF SUCH PROBLEMS, WHAT IS NEEDED, HE OPINED, IS CONTINUING LARGE IN-FLOW OF QUICK DISBURSING ASSISTNCE, TO WIT, GENERAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT IN FORM OF COMMODITY LOANS OR FOOD GRAINS.

3. REFERRING TO RECENT UN DECISIONS RE POTENTIAL "EMERGENCY" ASSISTANCE FOR COUNTRIES MOST AFFECTED BY WORLD PRICE STRUCTURE, HE SAID THAT REALISTICALLY, ASSISTANCE FROM THIS SOURCE IS 16-18 MONTHS AWAY. THEREFORE, WHAT IS NEEDED IS ASSISTANCE BY DONOR COMMUNITY DESIGNED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN CURRENT DESPERATE SITUATION AND THE TIME WHEN THIS EXTRAORDINARY UN ASSISTANCE CAN

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BE EXPECTED. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO CONVEY BDG'S CONCERN

AND REQUEST FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE THROUGH AMBASSADOR TO USG.

4. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR STATED USG AWARE BANGLADESH'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WOULD REFER THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR ALSO CITED LARGE SCALE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE ALREADY GIVEN BANGLADESH AND FACT THAT SUBSTANTIAL QUANTUM OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE THRU R/R GRANT REMAIN UNDISBURSED. REASONS FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS AID PROGRAM AND OUR RESERVATIONS RE COMMODITY ASSISTANCE JHSO REVIEWED. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT \$25 MILLION AG INPUT LOAN, CURRENTLY UNDER FINAL STAGE REVIEW IN WASHINGTON, SHOULD BE RAPID DISBURSING ITEM.

5. WE INTEND SUBMIT MORE THROUGH ANALYSES CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN NEAR FUTURE. DECONTROL JUNE 7, 1975.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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